Pre-School education in the country

†1351. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pre-school education for the children between two to five years of age has been growing expeditiously in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many big houses are active in this field and this system has become inaccessible to common man of the country; and

(d) if not, the facts in this regard and whether Government would consider to regularize these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Pre-School education under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is imparted to the children in the age group of 3-6 years. Number of pre-school beneficiaries of ICDS Scheme has increased from approximately 1.66 crore as on 30th March, 2002 to 2.71 crore on 30th September, 2006.

(c) and (d) Education being a subject in the concurrent list, most of the pre-schools come under the jurisdiction of the State Government.

Sharing expenditure of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan between the Centre and States

†1352. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has suggested to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.